

15 GUARDSMEN SEE 'FLYING SAUCER'



PVT. GUS SANCHEZ ... just tired CAPT. HORLANDER ... Emergency: UFO M/SGT. BILL LYONS ... it is one PVT. JIM BROWNLEE ... it's ours SP/3 BOB MCNEIL ... looked like one SP/3 TED WIMBISH ... so shiny and bright PVT. MIKE GONTA ... felt weird CORP. JAMES LEE ... started looking

By RALPH R. GOMPERTZ
Just as we thought that Flying Saucers had faded out of sight to make room for Elvis (the Pelvis) Presley, one of those confounded UFOs zoomed into view again.
This time it hovered a little bit too close to home for comfort or ridicule.
The local residents who saw "The Thing" just aren't the type to go around spinning space yarns.
In the past, it's always been possible to start a good hot saucer argument to break up the boredom, knowing that nobody could possibly put an end to it, and spoil the fun.
Not so any more, it seems.
It's hard to continue arguing after hearing the sober testimony of 15 soldiers all of whom saw the same thing.
The men are members of Torrance's National

Guard unit. Their convoy was just returning from summer maneuvers.
Among those who observed the Unidentified Flying Object was Captain Douglas J. Horlander, commanding officer of the local unit (Company E, 132nd Armored Engineer Battalion, 40th Division).
Captain Horlander is a World War II veteran, having seen action in both theaters of war, including 11 countries. He was in the service 43 months, serving with the 361st Engineer (SS) Regiment.
This is his account of the Flying Saucer episode:
"I took a 24-man detail and left Camp Roberts one day ahead of the troops. It was Friday, August 23, 6:10 p.m.
"Our convoy was just about six miles north of Santa Barbara at Goleta. We were going along at 25 m.p.h.
There It Was
"I was sitting in the front seat of the jeep, half asleep.

M/Sgt. William Lyons was riding in the rear. Suddenly Lyons tapped me on the shoulder.
"Hey, Cap," he said, "I've been watching this thing."
"I looked up, and there I saw this round object standing perfectly still, at about a 1000 ft. elevation. It was round and shiny like the top of a tin can. It looked like the sun, only the sun was coming from another direction."
"First I thought it was a blimp. It was at a 45 degree angle from us, toward the left. All at once it zoomed sideways and then instantly up to about 5000 ft. at a right angle, like the beam of a flashlight."
"Then I thought that it might be a weather balloon," Horlander continued. "But suddenly it came down again to a 2000 ft. elevation."
"I knew it wasn't a jet, because one of the four-engine

What Others Said:
Fifteen local Guardsmen are said to have seen the 'Flying Saucer' on their return from Camp Roberts Friday August 23. Here is what eight of them who were interviewed had to say:
Chief Warrant Officer Robert V. Feldman, 2518 Highcliff, Torrance (served as 1st/sgt. in World War II, five years; warrant officer in Korea, two years): It was definitely something other than an ordinary aircraft. What it was I don't know. I'm awfully skeptical about a Flying Saucer. I'm more prone to believe it's some Unidentified Flying Object the government is experimenting with.
Pvt. Mike Gonta, 917 Felbar (junior at Torrance

The Largest Circulating Newspaper between Los Angeles and Long Beach

TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE. — FA. 8-2345

VOL. VIII 1 2 2 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1956 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA NO. 19

Fourth Special Census-- 80,000, 82,000, 87,000?

Torrance's population continues to increase like jack-rabbits. As a result, the city is ready for another special census, since it figures that the population has increased by about 15,000 residents since last September. Of course there's one good reason why a city would take the trouble to count noses—money!

Citizens Committee Planned For New Catholic Hospital

A preliminary meeting to discuss formation of a Beach Cities organization to initiate a program of public education for the voluntary, tax-free Little Company of Mary hospital was held last week.

The gathering was the forerunner of a larger meeting planned for today, at which time a Citizens Committee for the new institution will be formed.

Principal speaker at the luncheon was Dr. Frederic Ewens, of Manhattan Beach, who told the group that the people of the Beach area should have an opportunity to be thoroughly informed on all aspects of the tax-free Sisters hospital before the voters determine September 18 whether they want the proposed tax-free district hospital.

Original Sponsor
"I was an original sponsor of the district hospital," Dr. Ewens said. "At the time I advocated this institution, there appeared to be no possibility of interesting private capital in building a voluntary hospital to serve one people. The district hospital seemed to be the only solution to the critical problem of bed shortage. Today, however, the picture has changed. We now have an experienced group of

PESSIMISM TURNS TO OPTIMISM

IS EVERYBODY HAPPY?
Torrance Press classified advertisers certainly seem to be. The latest one to let us know how happy she is, is Mrs. John Rozum of 4110 183rd st., Torrance, who placed the following ad in the Torrance Press:

COUPLE—Both teachers, want responsible woman for day care of infant in our home. FR. 4-0814

"My friends were quite cynical about the ad and said I'd never find anyone through a want ad," Mrs. Rozum explained. "So I was not too optimistic. But we were happily surprised! I can't begin to tell you how many calls we've had since Thursday morning.

"We must have had dozens of calls! Our only difficulty was that we had so many truly fine women to choose from! It was difficult to make up our minds. Please cancel the ad by all means. The Torrance Press certainly got wonderful results for us!"
Need we say more? Err... yes—call FA 8-2345 for similar results!

This money would come from the State which pays back portions of the gasoline and in lieu taxes to the city on the basis of population.

Torrance, according to City Manager George Stevens, will be eligible for an additional \$150,000.

Since the census will cost about \$13,000, the added revenues are worth the expense.

Torrance's population has increased at a fantastic rate since 1950, and the new census would be the city's fourth since that time.

Torrance's population by October will be about 82,000, City Manager George Stevens estimated. That means that the figure has almost quadrupled in six years.

Here are the figures:
1950—22,201
1952—31,834
1953—44,914
1955—67,459

Torrance, together with four other California cities, will be able to boast of having had four special censuses since 1950, if the Bureau of Census will go ahead with another one here.

The four cities who have already had their fourth census are Anaheim, Fullerton, Glendora, and West Covina.

Stevens thinks the local census will be held around October. Residents are moving into Torrance at slightly more than 1000 a month. Stevens predicted that the local population will reach about 150,000 in another ten years.

While Stevens estimated 82,000 by October of this year, other estimates range from 80,000 to 87,000.

\$1,000,000 Plant Locates Here

NEWS BRIEFS

"A POEM LOVELY AS . . ."
Four garden clubs couldn't decide on the type of tree to recommend to the City Council as the city's 'official' tree. Since the council did not want to antagonize anyone, they bowed out of the controversy. Instead of an 'official' tree, Torrance will simply boast a few special tree 'specimens' to be planted on Arbor Day as the individual clubs decide.

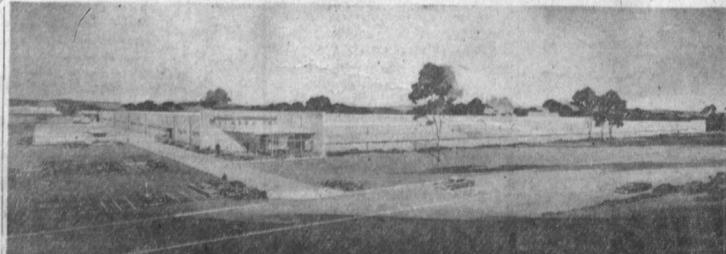
OLD CITY HALL: The council acted favorably to 1) cut the lot adjoining the Probert property in half as an R-1 buffer strip to be sold individually; 2) have the Planning Commission consider rezoning the lot behind the city hall for parking; 3) sell the city hall through bids and then hold a public auction. (Turn to Page 6)

Three Hurt In Crash On Western

Two cars collided and three persons were injured during an early morning crash Thursday, August 30, at 220th and Western ave.
Suffering major injuries, according to San Pedro police, was Lillian Dennis, 32, of 21240 Hobart st., Torrance, who was going north on Western. She was taken to Harbor General hospital with cuts on the left arm, concussion, contusions on the bridge of her nose, abrasions of the left cheek, shoulder and thigh, and cuts of the



THREE WERE HURT
The Dennis car following a collision at 220th and Western.



Lomita Factions Differ On Incorporation Figures

Guy Halferty, Lakewood incorporation expert, systematically and methodically presented the case in favor of incorporation for Lomita last week his dignity becoming ruffled only when challenging his challengers.

In Favor of Incorporation

Here are some of the highlights of the Lomita incorporation survey made by Guy Halferty and Associates:
I.—ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION
1. Lomita is about two square miles in size with an assessed valuation of about \$8,250,000.
2. Lomita has about 4200 registered voters, giving it a population of about 12,600 (state uses formula: registered voters times three).
3. Lomita as a city would be among upper 50 per cent of California's 331 cities popula-

Against Incorporation

Following is a list of arguments prepared by the Citizens Committee Opposing Incorporation of Lomita and issued following the presentation of the Halferty report on incorporation. The arguments have been submitted by L. E. Ross, chairman:
1. Halferty's figures are obviously a first year makeshift only. They cannot be used as a basis for permanent operation. We are not incorporating for one year only. We need figures for the second and following years. Halferty does not give

Upon completing his own presentation, Halferty addressed himself to answering point by point the published statements made by the Citizens' Committee Opposing Incorporation of Lomita, charmaned by L. E. Ross.
Halferty began by labeling the piece of literature "abominable." He ended by quoting its final warning to "examine the bait, is there a hook concealed in it?" He threw it from him contemptuously, without uttering another word.

He was not sparing of words, however, between beginning and end of his rebuttal.
He gave utterance to a number of colorful Halfertisms: Belittling the motives of those favoring incorporation or those who would fill public office is a "gratuitous insult to the citizens of Lomita," he said.

Regarding the fear of irresponsible taxation, he declared that "no one but idiots and Hitler tax for the hell of it."
And, referring pretty much to the overall note of suspicion and cynicism which he read into the opposition's claims and attitudes, he exclaimed: "These things are lies, lies—you can

(Turn to Page 23)

INDUSTRY TO EMPLOY ABOUT 650

A one-million dollar plant which will employ about 650 individuals is now being constructed in Torrance at 3201 Lomita Blvd. (between Hawthorne and Crenshaw blvds.).

Locating here is Vickers Manufacturing, incorporated. Vickers merged with the Sperry corporation in 1937 and Sperry merged with Remington-Rand in 1955 to form the present Sperry-Rand corporation.

Today Vickers, incorporated, designs and manufactures complete oil hydraulic power transmissions and control systems for practically any type of machinery.

These systems are used in a great variety of industries including automotive, machine tool, farm machinery, aircraft, and missile, food products, highway construction and maintenance, petroleum, rubber, steel, mining, printing, pulp and paper, glass and ceramics, plastics.

(Turn to Page 6)

Press Will Receive Guard Honor

A Service Award for consistent support of the local National Guard Unit will be presented to the Torrance Press, on Tuesday, September 18.

The Torrance Press initiated the campaign which culminated in the establishment of a local National Guard Armory.
The Service Awards will be presented at the Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting, by Major General Homer O. Eaton, Jr., Commander of the 40th Division, California National Guard.

Three Torrance industrial firms will also receive Meritorious Service Awards. They are: General Petroleum, Harvey Ma-

(Turn to Page 22)

2 Special Features In This Edition

For the second and final article dealing with the unique "Little Red School House" experiment and its startling outcome, turn to page 25.
The third in a series of four articles dealing with the local mental health picture may be found on page 8. It is titled: "How Effective is the Local Mental Health Clinic—Some Case Histories."



'I FOLLOWED THE OIL FIELDS'

Fred Eshom, street repair and rubbish collection man for the city of Torrance, retired this week after 23 years of service. Eshom, 70, who lives at 1915 Andrea, came to Torrance in 1923, following the oil fields. Fellow workers presented him with a rifle as a going away present, since Eshom enjoys hunting. Also present were (l-r) Ass't. City Manager Don Mensfield, Councilman Nick Drale, Eshom, and Ralph Perkins, street superintendent.—Press Photo.

See Pages 18 to 25 for Back To School Values